



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
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## **Veterans Day 11 November 2007**

“Let us set ourselves a standard so high that it will be a glory to live up to it ... and then let us live up to it.” That is what President Wilson said to American Soldiers heading off to war in 1917, a war the ending of which we now commemorate as Veterans Day.

It is right that we set aside a day for those who have borne the burden of defending our country. They are typically our youngest. It is right that we recognize their sacrifice. It is typically the greatest that can be made. But so, too, does Veterans Day remind us of the power of service, of giving oneself over to a cause -- a purpose -- far greater than the individual.

The Soldiers who stormed the beaches at Normandy knew such purpose, as did the Marines at Iwo Jima ... the Sailors at Midway ... our brave Airmen over the skies of Europe. In wars large and small, long and short, throughout the history of this Nation, young Americans have consistently stepped into the breach, raised their right hands and made a promise to serve -- to “defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.”

Today, America’s men and women in uniform continue to heed that promise, to live up to the same high standards President Wilson expected of his Doughboys. They know they stand on the broad shoulders of veterans who served before them, veterans who gave them the very freedom for which they now fight. They know they couldn’t do it without the love of their families. And they know the American people support them.

I have visited many of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and even on the DMZ in South Korea. They are focused and proud of the difference they are making. They do it not for glory, but for each other, their families and their country.

To all our veterans -- past and present -- and your families, thank you for your service. Thank you for making and keeping that promise. We are proud of you.

M. G. MULLEN  
Admiral, U.S. Navy